

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022

Page 2 of 6

Sharon Pistilli, District 3 asked if there were multiple bids for the remediation work.

Chief Administrative Officer Tom Bremer said they did not seek multiple bids for Gould Manor. In order to get the job done before the spring season, they utilized Cisco and the LEP who work on a number of sites throughout town who had already submitted the winning RFPs. Ms. Pistilli asked if RFPs or quotes were received for the additional work. Mr. Bremer replied that the Town did not issue 40 individual RFPs; they issued 1 for the 40+ sites which was awarded to Cisco. They felt it was a logical choice to continue using them.

The remediation costs were a direct result of the underlying layer in one of the infields that was originally improperly constructed and did not properly drain as a result. For the field to be properly built, the underlying layer of debris had to be removed. The base rubble layer that included contaminated soil was removed and Cisco disposed of the material under the direction of the LEP. The additional costs were all based on that discovery.

Ms. Pistilli asked if there is a plan if the dam overflows. Mr. Bremer said there is concern about the high water level relative to the height of the dam. There is an RFP for a sluice gate to lower the level of the pond to minimize flooding that will be installed before the spring.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 asked for clarification of the \$16,000 miscalculation. Mr. Calabrese explained that he and the Purchasing Department reviewed the bills and found the incorrect unit price.

Marc Spolyar, District 4 asked if there was any other oversight besides the park superintendent or if the TFC were involved. Mr. Calabrese said the Parks & Recreation Commission created subcommittees at its organizational meeting as the master plan will be coming forward. He has not seen anything with the TFC since 2014.

First Selectwoman Kupchick noted that the TFC had been utilized when she was on the Board of Education but has not been used recently. She noted that the historical contaminated soil would not have been found without the hot spots along the sidewalks around the entire park. This work has been much more extensive and now they want to make this a shining star from a bad situation.

Mr. Bremer explained that \$40,000 was the original contingency; the bathrooms are in the operating budget for DPW not in the waterfall; this would have been a small piece of the waterfall.

Jeff Galdenzi, District 3 asked why there were no bids for the fencing, scoreboard or irrigation. Mr. Bremer said there are bids for these items and they could be provided. Mr. Galdenzi asked how many permits were issued.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said a permit was pulled in September 2019 for remediation at Gould Manor Park after the contamination was discovered along the sidewalk at Gould Manor, IWPA for proposed overflow, the baseball fields, scoreboard, and tennis & pickleball courts. The sluice gate funding is in the Engineering Dept budget.

Andy Graceffa, District 6 asked for the drawdown amounts from contingency and of the \$450,000 request what work has been completed or materials purchased.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said the temporary fencing has not been purchased. Mr. Calabrese said the scoreboard has been purchased but not installed. It was under the bid threshold and quotes were received.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022

Page 3 of 6

The fencing that was there recently was put up as a “dry run” and has been taken down; it has not been paid for. The irrigation work has been completed. 80% of the courts have been completed.

Veronica Monahan, District 1 asked about the sluice gate and maintaining water levels as flooding has been a concern.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said the DPW Director and his team were there looking at the dam and pipes as we don't want the field washed out. Once the final design and installation is completed the information can be sent to the RTM so they can see how it works.

Hannah Gale, District 6 thanked her district and surrounding districts for supporting the project to date particularly during a time when outdoor space has been so important and noted that this is little compared to an \$8 million expenditure for the HSR Clubhouse. She asked what was found under the field that had to be remediated.

Mr. Calabrese said as soon as they dug down to a base layer that was not sufficient for proper drainage it had to be removed and remediated offsite.

Karen McCormack, District 2 asked if all necessary permits have been obtained. First Selectwoman Kupchick said perhaps Cisco should have pulled another permit for the ballfield; they are currently working with the Conservation Director to see if there should be an additional permit because of the proximity of the pond. He did not see any issues because we have the LEP onsite. A permit will be needed for the perimeter fence and the bathrooms. She gave her assurance that all necessary permits will be acquired.

John Kuhn, District 7 asked if the sluice gate installation should have been done prior to the ballfield improvements. First Selectwoman Kupchick said they did not know the poor drainage condition was so bad until the work had been started. There is funding available to cover flooding control projects such as this in the DPW budget.

Liz Zezima, District 4 asked if monthly reports can be provided to which Mr. Calabrese noted his department has not done that in the past. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she was happy to provide the information but noted this was a mammoth project that ran into a problem but they wanted to keep the project on track to open in the spring. Ms. Zezima noted that there was a legacy condition and our policies should be buttoned up.

Jill Vergara, District 7 said she is very supportive of this project and was positive when this came to us in June. She does not think it is reasonable to have almost \$1 million in additional costs without an RFP or bid. The fencing, scoreboard and courts are not part of the remediation. She felt this was not kosher and needed to be acknowledged.

Mr. Bremer said an RFP was done for the remediation at several sites. He reiterated that there are bids or quotes for the other items outside of the remediation that he can provide. Ms. Vergara said it was disconcerting that a full presentation was not given in June. She asked if the tennis courts are being scrapped. Mr. Calabrese said the tennis court is being redone along with a pickleball court and half basketball court.

Josh Garskof, District 5 asked if the sluice gate was maintenance for a regular rainstorm or is it to protect the field from a major rainstorm. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she would get a more technical

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022

Page 4 of 6

answer for him, but noted with 4 inches of rain in an hour all bets are off. The drainage issues in the fields was because of the poor material that was put under the field not just the contaminants.

Mr. Calabrese said the rebuild will help with the drainage of the fields in normal rainfall. The contractor who rebuilt the field is the one that does the field maintenance throughout town. He used the example of the sod not greening up this spring would be under warranty.

Mark McDermott, District 7 asked what the field maintenance program was. Mr. Calabrese said it included thatching, overseeding and aeration but not golf course quality.

Ms. Monahan asked what the ramifications are if the pond overflows and washes out the field. First Selectwoman Kupchick said there have been flooding issues in the park in the past, but with this investment they are trying to mitigate it.

Amendment: Marcy Spolyar moved to reduce the bonding amount by \$85,000 - \$10,000 for the scoreboard and \$75,000 for the bathrooms, duly seconded.

Ms. Spolyar explained that the funding could come out of the operating budgets and noted that the SVA recently paid for the bathrooms at Owen Fish Park. There are no bids for the bathrooms and they are not being worked on. There are no scoreboards at FLHS so why are we giving one to Little League.

Mr. Calabrese said there are operational scoreboards at the high schools and other Little League fields in town; this operational scoreboard would be a benefit.

Peter Tallman, District 8 said the scoreboard at FLHS does not work and needs to be replaced. FWHS just got four new ones.

Ms. Vergara asked if the Town or Little League pays for the scoreboards. Mr. Calabrese said some were paid for by the Town and others by the Leagues such as the one at Tomlinson was paid by Youth Football.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 said she is opposed to the motion as she is happy to finally wrap up a project and give this park back to the neighborhood.

Ms. Gale said she wants to get this done; it's an asset to the town.

Ms. Georgiadis said she supported the motion and finishing the project, but the project was expanded in scope. We have many assets to benefit varied interests.

Karen Wackerman, District 7 said the park needed a major overhaul, but she supports the motion to reduce the bonding amount when the bathrooms are already in the operating budget, and the scoreboard should not have been ordered.

Ms. Vergara said she would like the bid information prior to voting on this.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said she understands the frustration and the competing needs in town. She apologized for not including the bathrooms in the project originally but they are atrocious. The park will be utilized even more with these improvements. She urged the Body not to be pennywise and pound foolish.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022

Page 5 of 6

VOTE: The motion to reduce the bonding resolution by \$85,000 failed with 15 in favor, 21 opposed and 2 abstentions. (Mr. Britton was not present to vote.)

In Favor: Perham, Galdenzi, Lambert, Karson, Kelly, Zezima, Spolyar, Diaz, Berez, Graceffa, Havey, Kuhn, Wackerman, Brown, Georgiadis

Opposed: Bateson, Longo, Monahan, Ruggiero, McCormack, Schwartz, Steele, Durrell, Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Gale, McDermott, Ference, Iacono, P. Tallman, Horton, Scinto, Astarita, Petise, S. Tallman

Abstentions: Pistilli, Vergara

MOTION: Karen Wackerman moved to postpone this item to the next meeting, duly seconded.

Ms. Wackerman indicated she wanted more information on the engineering. First Selectwoman Kupchick said the engineering of the pond has nothing to do with the funding request. The Boards of Selectmen and Finance have approved the funding.

Mr. McDermott said he knows there were some things missing, but hopes there is an overall plan for the park. Ms. Wackerman said she disagreed that the flooding has nothing to do with it; information has been requested. Ms. Vergara said she supported the motion because there are \$925,000 in expenditures and she wants to see the bids.

Cindy Perham, District 2 said the RTM is not a rubber stamp just because two other boards approved it.

VOTE: The motion to postpone the Item to the next meeting (January 24, 2022) was approved with 19 in favor, 18 opposed and 1 abstention (Mr. Britton was not present to vote).

In Favor: Perham, Galdenzi, Lambert, Pistilli, Karson, Kelly, Zezima, Spolyar, Diaz, Garskof, Wolk, Berez, Havey, Kuhn, Vergara, Wackerman, Brown, Georgiadis, Horton

Opposed: Bateson, Longo, Monahan, Ruggiero, McCormack, Schwartz, Steele, Durrell, Gale, Graceffa, McDermott, Ference, Iacono, P. Tallman, Scinto, Astarita, Petise, S. Tallman

Abstention: Siebert

Mr. Calabrese said the opening of the courts would be delayed. April 1 is the start date for the field and tennis permits; if weather permits then the nets are put up earlier.

MOTION: Karen Wackerman moved to reconsider, duly seconded.

VOTE: The motion to reconsider was approved with 37 in favor and 1 opposed (Galdenzi) (Mr. Britton was not present to vote).

WITHDRAWAL: Ms. Wackerman withdrew her original motion to postpone the Item to the next meeting.

VOTE: The bonding resolution in the amount of \$945,000 for the remediation and enhancement of recreational facilities at Gould Manor Park was approved with 27 in favor, 5 opposed and 7 abstentions.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022

Page 6 of 6

In Favor: Bateson, Longo, Monahan, Ruggiero, McCormack, Steele, Durrell, Pistilli, Karson, Diaz, Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Berecz, Gale, Graceffa, McDermott, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, P. Tallman, Horton, Scinto, Astarita, Britton, Petise, S. Tallman

Opposed: Perham, Galdenzi, Lambert, Havey, Brown

Abstentions: Schwartz, Kelly, Spolyar, Zezima, Kuhn, Vergara, Georgiadis

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: “RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 10-153F, THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE FAIRFIELD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (FSAA), AS SET FORTH IN THE DECEMBER 10, 2021 ARBITRATION AWARD FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, IS REJECTED.”

Karen Wackerman, District 7 moved this Item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Jeff Peterson, BOE member & negotiations liaison with this bargaining unit urged the Body to vote “no” as it was a fair contract in which the parties agreed on wages & insurance and one item, the discipline language proceeded to interest arbitration.

Atty. Stephen Sedor explained the discipline issue & the last best offers from each party and the importance of the obtained language that was very important to the BOE which it believes will provide the district with management rights and flexibility necessary to efficiently operate the district. If this item is rejected, it would expose the BOE to a loss of language for which it strenuously advocated.

VOTE: The resolution to reject the collective bargaining agreement between the BOE and the FSAA was rejected by unanimous voice vote (Mr. Britton was not present to vote).

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC
Town Clerk